Recall system for hazardous foods

*340. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a detailed scheme has been formulated to introduce a system for recall of hazardous foods from the market, if they are adulterated, misbranded or injurious to health;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of view expressed by various State Governments and machinery established or proposed for effective implementation of the recall system; and

(d) the details of the recall system for hazardous foods as practiced in some other countries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Joint Parliamentary Committee on Pesticide Residues in and safety standards for soft drinks, fruit juices and other beverages in its report submitted to Parliament on 04.2.2004 has recommended for establishment of a mandatory recall system of food products. The relevant para of the report is reproduced below:—

Para 4.78 (6)—A Mandatory Food Recall System should be established and companies should be made accountable for selling sub-standard and harmful products in the market which must be destroyed in the presence of authorities. Withdrawal notices must be issued in media to inform citizens so that they should be made aware about the unsafe products. In order to check adulteration in the food items, the Government should not hesitate in taking help of NGOs. The Government must also improve surveillance and monitoring the quality of the food.

A draft notification to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955, to insert a provision for establishment of Food Recall System has been published in the Gazette of India *vide* GSR 355 (E) dated 09.6.2006 for inviting comments from the Public, giving 60 days time for sending comments, if any, on the draft rules from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

As per the proposed provisions, no person shall himself or by any person on his behalf, manufacture for sale or store, sell distribute or exhibit for sale any article of food which is pre-packed, unless he has in place a system or procedure to recall the article of food or any ingredient or any substance placed in the market which is adulterated or misbranded or injurious to health.

Before finalizing the proposed rules, the comments received on the draft proposed rules from the public, other countries, if any, would be considered alongwith the comments received from State/UT Governments who implement the PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955 in their respective States/UTs. No separate consultation with the States/ UTs undertaken.

In the food regulations implemented by countries like Australia, New Zealand, Canada, countries of EU and USA, there are provisions for mentioning the details of Batch No., Code No. (Bar code, Matrix Code, Alfa numerical, Radio Frequency Identification etc.), complete address and other specific particulars of the manufacture on the label of food articles to facilitate product tracing and product recall.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Ban on Mechanized Boats

2259. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has issued an order imposing a uniform fishing ban on mechanized boats applicable from 10th June to 15th August 2006, in all the five Coastal States *i.e.* Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Karnataka, Kerala and Goa had already imposed ban till 31st July, 2006; and

(d) if so, the reaction of these three States extending ban upto 15th August, 2006 and Government's reaction thereto?